

New Jersey Agricultural Education Advisory Council

2015 NJ FFA Convention

Samuel Hays Magill Commons - Club Dining Room

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

1:00 – 3:00 pm

AGENDA

- I. **Call to order** – Chairman Bill Walker
- II. **Introduction of members and guests**
- III. **Approval of minutes from February 2015 meeting**
- IV. **Chair’s Report**
- V. **FFA Report & Introduction of National FFA Officer, Kristen Schmidt** – Kristianne Dowd
- VI. **Old Business:**
 - A. Review Advisory Council Membership Reflecting Industry Representation - All
 - B. Post-Secondary Articulation Agreements – Dr. Tom Leustek & DVC Representative
 - C. Reports from Spring FFA CDE Coordinators
 - Vet Science – Deon Spencer
 - Nursery Landscape – Dominick Mondì
 - Ag Sales – Bill Walker
 - Floriculture – Deb Moyer
 - Natural Resources – Rich Belcher
 - D. State Ag Education/CASE Update – Nancy Trivette
- VII. **New Business:**
 - A. World Food Prize & State Initiative – Dr. Laura Lawson, Dean of Agricultural and Urban Programs, Rutgers University SEBS
 - B. Industry Outlook – All
 - C. Establish a Nominating Committee to Propose New Officers
 - D. Other Critical Issues From Members
- VIII. **Meeting Adjournment:** Next Meeting Date – Feb. 2016 (NJ State Agricultural Convention)

Directions to Monmouth Univ. - Pollak Theatre entrance (this is where Convention Session are held):
http://www.jerseyageducation.nj.gov/agriculture/ag_ed/ffa/convention/DirectionstoMonmouthUniversity-PollakTheatre.pdf Scroll down to see parking area B on map.

Event location and campus map (see slide 2):

http://www.jerseyageducation.nj.gov/agriculture/ag_ed/bulletin/StateFFAConventionLocations.pdf

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Wednesday, May 20, 2015

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order – Chairman Bill Walker

Bill called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm in the Club Lounge, Samuel Hays Magill Commons, Monmouth University, in Long Branch, NJ.

II. Introduction of Members and Guests

Members and guests in attendance included Kristen Schmidt (National FFA Secretary), Kristianne Dowd (NJFFA President), Nancy Trivette, Bill Walker, Rich Belcher (NJDA), Rachel Lyons (Rutgers 4H), Laura Lawson (Dean - SEBS), Deb Moyer, Anne Edwards (Assoc. Dean - BCC), Liz Thompson (NJFB), Frank Yesalavich (NJFFA Foundation), David McNair (NJDOE), and Dave Specca (Rutgers EcoComplex).

III. Approval of Minutes from February 2015 Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes by Rachel Lyons. Seconded by David McNair. Motion passes.

IV. Chair's Report: Chairman Walker congratulated Nancy Trivette for involving an increasing number of NJDA personnel into all aspects of the FFA State Convention. For many reasons, it is important that Departmental staff is familiar with the mission of the Agricultural Education and FFA programs. Mr. Walker discusses these programs/efforts in his interactions with farmers and farm groups to help create awareness. Beyond the educational requirements that must be satisfied by students, agriculture programs teach students "life skills". Real world interpersonal skills, such as interacting positively with our peers and adults, are greatly enhanced. Interested, motivated, and hard-working students will always become successful adults.

V. FFA Report and Introduction of National FFA Officer, Kristen Schmidt – Kristianne Dowd

Kristianne Dowd discussed FFA events since the February meeting. NJ FFA was visited by the National FFA Western Region Vice President, Caleb Gustin. He visited Sussex County Tech where he participated in Agricultural Olympics and ice fishing with the Newton chapter. He visited the Cape May chapter, "Fuel Up" retreat where planning for the May convention began and Salem County Tech for a Jersey Fresh food competition. The Advocacy Leadership & Legislative Day (ALLD) gave students a chance to tour the State House and meet with Lt. Governor Guadagno. Spring Career Development Events (CDE's) saw an increased number of chapters participating. Kristianne and the team are very excited for State Convention.

Kristen Schmidt, the National FFA Secretary, from Colorado, is involved beef production. She's double majoring in Animal Science and Agricultural Business. She will attend eight state conventions and visit 25-30 states this year. Over the next four months, Kristen will travel over a hundred thousand miles representing the National FFA. She also visited Japan to explore international agriculture. There were almost 65,000 attendees at last year's national convention

making it the largest youth conference in America. She invited everyone to attend this year's conference, in Louisville, Kentucky, October 28-31.

VI. Old Business:

A. Review Advisory Council Membership Reflecting Industry Representation

The Chairman disseminated Council's membership list showing the five career pathways, their industry representatives, and asked the attending members to check their listings and offer suggestions for additions to our Council. We should look to add another representative to the Food Products & Processing Systems pathway. It was noted Cumberland County College agriculture instructor position is open and Delaware Valley College has an interim Dean to replace Russell Redding (now Pa. Secretary of Agriculture).

B. Post-Secondary Articulation Agreements –Dr. Tom Leustek of Rutgers University has worked with many schools to establish articulation agreements. Mercer CC, Morris CC, Cumberland CC, SUNY Cobleskill, and Delaware Valley College are also articulating with NJ schools. Overall, Ms. Trivette has counted 42 articulation agreements with colleges for students to get college credits for CASE courses. This summer, field testing will occur for the new Power, Structural, & Technical Systems course and the Agricultural Research & Development capstone course.

C. Reports from Spring FFA CDE Coordinators

Vet Science – Dr. Barry Jesse and Ms. Deon Spencer coordinated this event. There were about 60-70 FFA members participating in this CDE.

Nursery Landscape – Domenick Mondri and the NJ Nursery & Landscape Association coordinated this event. Five teams/35 students participated. NJNLA members were impressed by the knowledge and skills of the students. They look forward to continuing their involvement in this event.

Ag Sales – Bill Walker coordinated this event again. Five teams participated. Each year, the quality of the student participation is better. Salem County Vo-Tech won this year's event selling Pro-Mix soil-less products. This quality event couldn't be offered without the support of judges from the NJDA, Rutgers and the NJ Farm Bureau.

Floriculture – Deb Moyer has been coordinating this quality event for 26 years. They had 80 students participating in five different areas including plant identification; making a corsage; selling one-on-one; exam and problem solving; and a growing procedures photo evaluation. FFA embraces students of all learning levels to participate in their career development events.

Natural Resources – Rich Belcher again coordinated this quality event for 25-30 students. It included some new techniques and additional GPS work.

Agricultural Mechanics – Justin Noble coordinated this event at the turf farm. Chairman Walker asked if there was anything else related to Career Development Events that should be discussed?

Ms. Trivette brought up an issue that has been discussed the last few years by a State Convention student delegate committee related to CDE's; should there be an established "mastery level" that State winning teams need to reach, in order to be certified to represent the State at the National Convention? There are some student organizations that use some type of qualifier. Several years ago, this Committee recommended that the State Executive Board enact such a policy. They further recommended that this level be established at a 65%. The State Executive Board discussed the matter and made a policy decision to set a State mastery level of 60%. It was enacted. Then a few State winning teams didn't meet the newly established mastery level and problems ensued. Two state winning teams were then denied going to the National Convention to represent NJ because they had only shown mastery level scores in the CDE's of 38% and 25%. The teachers of these state winning teams weren't happy. This is a current and on-going issue. So far this year, only one State CDE winning (Agricultural Mechanics at 58%) team has failed to meet the minimum 60% mastery level. A policy had previously been in effect that state winning teams, couldn't compete in the same event the next year. That policy was changed to if won and 60% mastery level was not met, then the team could come back again and compete in that event the next year.

The student committee that established this mastery level decision felt strongly about their decision. They felt that the CDE's were real career development events and not competitions. Frank Yesalavich said that some schools require students attending the National Convention had to be competing in a CDE. However, there is much more to be involved in at the National Convention than only participating in CDE's. There are leadership development workshops, tours and the career expo.

Frank Yesalavich has judged applications for various state proficiency awards that do not meet a 60% mastery level. Sometimes, students submit applications because it is a part of a classroom assignment rather than their own personal desire to compete.

Nancy said some states invest in training their state winning teams. Some have wondered if we should try to encourage similar efforts here. Funding and partners are required. Deb Moyer said event coordinators should offer assistance to the state winning team to prepare for the national competition.

D. State Agricultural Education/CASE Update – Nancy Trivette

There are 35 school districts with about 42 approved agricultural programs. In those districts, 26 of those schools have approved programs of study. That means that these school districts have post-secondary agreements (with 2- or 4-year colleges). At least 18 high schools have one or more articulation agreements. There are 15 agreements with Rutgers University, 12 with Delaware Valley University, 3 with Cumberland CCC and SUNY Cobleskill, 4 with Mercer CCC, and 5 with Morris CCC. There are 21 school districts that have CASE programs. Ms. Trivette has noticed that some schools have added additional career pathways as a result of their involvement with the CASE program. Salem County VTS and Freehold are both adding an Animal Science pathway. There are 26 agriculture teachers in NJ that hold 64 different CASE certifications. There are 3 national CASE "lead teachers" in NJ out of the 70 nationally certified lead teachers; Dale Cruzan of Allentown (Animal & Plant Biotechnology), Jen Wilson from North Warren (Plant Science), and Sara Cobb of Woodstown (Intro course). They received additional training in April so that they can teach their two-week courses somewhere throughout the US this summer.

The NJDA provided CASE grants to eleven school districts this year for professional development and/or equipment.

Ms. Trivette reported that NJ will be hosting the CASE Institute *Agricultural Research and Development course* field test this summer with the help of Rutgers University and the Upper Freehold School District/Allentown HS. Graduate school credits will be provided to teachers participating in the course from Rutgers University. There will be 18 teachers in the class, with 13 of them from NJ.

Ms. Trivette noted some information provided for the meeting. The USDA announced that during the five year period of 2015-2020, agricultural employment projections indicate there will be 57,000 job openings yet only 34,000 will be graduating from agricultural schools. That leaves a gap of 23,000 jobs that are being filled from other areas such as biology, chemistry, marketing, communications, etc.

FFA membership is up as Ms. Trivette detailed this year's convention statistics. This larger venue is accommodating about 490 students, advisors, and staff. There are over 100 industry professional volunteers on hand to evaluate students in various events. About \$41,000 in scholarship money is being given by the NJ FFA Foundation this year, about \$9,000 more than last year. A program whereby donors purchase FFA blue jackets has become a model for other states and national FFA. There will be 49 blue jackets presented to NJ members this year. This year, students will receive 51 State degrees and 10 American FFA degrees. There are 12 State Officer candidates this year and one National Officer Candidate; Lauren Fillebrown. Lauren was also a candidate last year. Only 6 students are chosen each year.

Nancy Trivette reported that there are several openings in NJ for Agriculture Teachers. There was a retirement at Warren Hills. There is a vacancy in Cape May due to the untimely death of a horticulture/landscape teacher. There will also be an opening in Woodstown.

Frank Yesalavich asked how many new certified teachers would be graduating from Rutgers University and Delaware Valley University. Nancy said that Woodstown officials are concerned about the applicant pool. Warren Hills had a few applications for that job. Agriculture teachers are becoming harder to find in New Jersey. Nancy estimated there were 8 current teachers who could retire immediately. CASE has helped with the retention of teachers.

Dale Cruzan was awarded the Association of Career & Technical Education (ACTE) Region I "Outstanding Young Teacher of the Year" award. He will compete with other regional winners for the national title which will be announced November in New Orleans. Dale has also been selected as NJ's Outstanding Young Member of the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE).

David McNair of the DOE reported that NJ adopted new career and technical education standards as part of an update and revisions to Standard 9, 21st Century Life & Careers. These standards were developed as part of a consortium and similar to the Common Core State standards for English, Language Arts, and Mathematics. Newly added this year is Career Ready Practices. This is part of a reinvigorated focus on career. These newly revised CTE standards are broader in scope and provide teachers greater flexibility to develop curriculum and lesson plans around the standards. The implementation standards are required to be implemented by

September 2015. Districts shouldn't have any problems aligning curriculum to the new standards. It's more a matter of formatting changes to be done. David's office has been conducting workshop sessions and professional development events since these new standards were adopted.

VII. New Business:

A. World Food Prize & State Initiative – Dr. Laura Lawson, Dean of Agricultural and Urban Programs, Rutgers University SEBS.

Dr. Lawson said that Rutgers University, as requested by the Lt. Governor's Office, is planning to conduct World Food Prize State Youth Institute. Dr. Lawson traveled to Iowa to learn more about events in other states. The associated World Youth Institutes allow 150 high school students to participate in a conference that features Nobel laureates, past presidents, and kings of countries, etc. In order to be selected, students must write a 2-5 page essay related to an important food, agriculture, and nutrition concern in a particular country.

There are 6 states invited to Iowa to learn about the program. Two student delegates from each state will be guaranteed to be selected at first and as interest rises, additional students could be selected. Rachel Lyons (Rutgers 4H) and Nancy will be working, along with others, with Laura on our NJ efforts. The first NJ State Youth Institute is planned for March 2016.

B. Industry Outlook – Frank Yesalavich - SEBS Board of Managers went on a field trip to the Haskins Shellfish Laboratory in Bivalve and to the Rutgers University Adelphi Research Station.

Liz Thompson - NJFB has reinvigorated a NJ chapter of the National Young Farmers & Ranchers program. NJ was represented at the national leadership conference in NY. Jen Wilson, an agriculture teacher from North Warren, represented NJ at the national YF&R competition during a national discussion meet. Liz would like to also encourage 4H & FFA members to become involved with YF&R. She has been using Matt Maddox of RU's Communications Dept. to help 4H with their public speaking.

C. Establish a Nominating Committee to Propose New Officers

Jack Roszel and Nancy Trivette will serve on this committee.

E. Other Critical Issues From Members

Anyone that is interested in staying for the convention is also welcome to enjoy dinner with the students; please see Nancy.

IX. Meeting Adjournment:

Next Meeting Date – NJ State Agricultural Convention, February 2016